

Docket No.: 02-21 US

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A lateral flow immunoassay device comprising:
  - a porous strip for enabling capillary migration of a fluid sample therealong;
  - a labeled reagent disposed on the strip, said labeled reagent being formulated for suspension in the sample migrating therepast;
  - a captive reagent immobilized on the strip in a path of sample migration, said captive reagent being formulated to bind to said labeled reagent to form a visible colored site on the strip; and
  - means for providing a complimentary color background for the colored site in order to increase visual perception of the colored site, said means comprising a transparent colored film disposed over said porous strip.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The device according to claim 3 1 wherein the film is suspended above said porous strip.
5. (currently amended) The device according to claim 3 1 wherein the film is laminated to said porous strip.
6. (original) The device according to any one of claim 1 through 5 wherein the colored site is blue and the complimentary color background is selected from a group consisting of yellow, yellow-orange and orange.
7. (original) The device according to any one of claims 1 through 4 wherein the colored site is red and the complimentary color background is selected from a group consisting of green, light green, fluorescent green and lime green.
8. (currently amended) A lateral flow immunoassay device comprising:

Docket No.: 02-21 US

a white porous nitrocellulose membrane for enabling capillary migration of a fluid sample therealong;

a labeled reagent disposed on the membrane, said labeled reagent being formulated for suspension in the sample migrating therepast;

a captive reagent immobilized on the strip in a path of sample migration, said captive reagent being formulated to bind to said labeled reagent to form a visible colored site on the strip; and

an element for changing the white strip to a color which enhances visual perception of said colored site, said element comprising a colored or a clear backing for supporting the membrane and respectively a clear or colored transparent film adhered thereof.

9. (original) The device according to claim 8 wherein the element comprises a dye incorporated into the membrane.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The device according to claim 10 wherein said transparent film is laminated to the membrane.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (original) The device according to any one of claims 8 through 13 wherein the colored site is blue and the enhancing color is selected from a group consisting of yellow, yellow-orange and orange.

15. (original) The device according to any one of claims 8 through 13 wherein the colored site is red and the enhancing color is selected from a group consisting of green, light green, fluorescent green and lime green.

16. (currently amended) An improvement in a lateral flow immunoassay device having a strip for enabling capillary migration of a fluid sample therealong, a labeled reagent disposed on the strip

**Docket No.: 02-21 US**

and formulated for suspension in the sample migrating therepast and a captive reagent immobilized on the strip in a path of sample migration and formulated to bind to said labeled reagent to form a visible colored site on said strip, said improving comprising a color background for enhancing visual perception of said colored site, wherein said colored site is blue and said colored background is yellow or said colored site is red and said colored background is green.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The improvement according to claim 16 wherein said color background comprises a transparent film disposed over said strip.

19-22. (canceled)